METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NOP FOLDING

Abstract of the Invention

[00054]   . Embodiments of an apparatus, method, and system provide for no-operation

instruction ("NOP") folding such that information regarding the presence of a NOP instruction in

the instruction stream is folded into a buffer entry for another instruction. Information regarding

a target NOP instruction is thus maintained in a buffer entry associated with an instruction other

than the target NOP instruction. For at least one embodiment, NOP information is folded into

entries of a re-order buffer.